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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-sixth session
14 August-8 September 2006
Agenda item 7
Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session

Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Committee

Note by the Secretariat

1. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its forty-seventh session, together with the required documentation.

2. In its decision 1983/163, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources, and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

3. The draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Committee is set out below. It has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority and will be completed at the end of the present session in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

Draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

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Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 54/236)

4. Programme questions:

(a) Programme planning:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the experiences gained with the changes made in the planning and budgetary process (General Assembly resolution 58/269)

(b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/269);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (in fascicle form)

(c) Evaluations.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of political affairs (General Assembly resolution 60/257)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-fourth session on the in-depth evaluation of public administration finance and development (General Assembly resolution 59/275)

5. Coordination questions:

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Board for 2006/2007

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the Partnership (General Assembly resolution 59/275)

6. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.

8. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-seventh session.

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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-sixth session
14 August-8 September 2006
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

I. Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 21 June 2006 and its substantive session from 14 August to 8 September 2006. It held a total of 19 meetings and a number of informal consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the forty-sixth session, adopted by the Committee at its organizational session (1st meeting), is contained in annex I.

Selection of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

3. At its 1st meeting, on 21 June, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit contained in document E/AC.51/2006/L.2. The Committee decided to consider the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (A/61/69) and the comments thereon by the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/61/69/Add.1).

4. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/233, paragraph 4, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, and invited the executive heads of organizations participating in the Unit, to take the necessary measures to ensure that the thematic reports of the Unit were listed under the appropriate substantive agenda items of the work programmes of the Assembly, other pertinent organs and bodies of the United Nations and the appropriate legislative organs of the other participating organizations, the Committee decided to consider the report under agenda item 4, Coordination questions, sub-item (b), New Partnership for Africa's Development.

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Programme of work

5. At its 2nd meeting on 14 August, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation (E/AC.51/2006/L.1/Rev.1), listing the documents for consideration by the Committee.

6. Also at its 2nd meeting, the Committee had before it an informal paper setting out a tentative and provisional programme of work for its forty-sixth session. The Committee approved its programme of work for the first two days, namely 14 and 15 August. For the remainder of the session, the Committee continued its work based on its tentative programme of work.

B. Election of officers

7. At its 1st meeting, on 21 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Norma Elaine Taylor Roberts (Jamaica) Chairman of the Committee for the forty-sixth session.

8. Also at its 1st meeting, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following members of the Bureau for the forty-sixth session: Vice-Chairman: Harold Agyeman (Ghana); and Rapporteur: Igor V. Fisenko (Belarus).

9. On 8 August, in a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, the secretariat of the Committee for Programme and Coordination was informed that, owing to unexpected circumstances, the elected Rapporteur of the forty-sixth session would be unable to attend the session. Consequently, the members of the Group of Eastern European States were invited to nominate a candidate.

10. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 August, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Ron Adam (Israel) and Ahmed Farooq (Pakistan) Vice-Chairmen and Valery Zhdanovich (Belarus) Rapporteur of the Committee for the forty-sixth session.

11. The Members of the Bureau for the forty-sixth session of the Committee are:

Chairman:
Norma Elaine Taylor Roberts (Jamaica)

Vice-Chairmen:
Harold Agyeman (Ghana)
Ron Adam (Israel)
Ahmed Farooq (Pakistan)

Rapporteur:
Valery Zhdanovich (Belarus)

C. Attendance

12. The following States Members were represented on the Committee:

Algeria	Israel
Argentina	Italy
Armenia	Jamaica
Bahamas	Japan
Belarus	Kenya
Benin	Mexico
Brazil	Pakistan
Bulgaria	Portugal
Central African Republic	Republic of Korea
China	Russian Federation
Comoros	Senegal
Cuba	South Africa
France	Switzerland
Ghana	United States of America
India	Uruguay
Indonesia	Zimbabwe
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	

13. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Angola	Jordan
Austria	Malaysia
Colombia	Nigeria
Czech Republic	Saudi Arabia
Ecuador	Slovakia
Egypt	Syrian Arab Republic
Finland	Ukraine
Germany	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Guyana	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Iraq	

14. The following regional commissions, funds and programmes were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa

Economic Commission for Europe

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Regional Commissions New York Office

United Nations Population Fund

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

15. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management; the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; the Controller; the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs; the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; the Deputy Executive Director for the United Nations Environment Programme; the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Director of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination; and senior officials of the Secretariat.

16. The following programmes and/or parts of programmes of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 were discussed by videoconference: programme 5, Peaceful uses of outer space; programme 10, Trade and development; programme 13, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice; programme 19, Human rights; programme 24, Management and support services; and programme 26, Jointly financed activities.

D. Documentation

17. The list of documents before the Committee at its forty-sixth session is set out in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

18. At its 19th meeting, on 8 September, the Committee adopted the draft report on the work of its forty-sixth session (E/AC.51/2006/L.4 and Add.1-___).

Annex I

Agenda for the forty-sixth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme performance;
   (b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009;
   (c) Revised estimates relating to the 2005 World Summit Outcome and proposed revisions to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007;
   (d) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session.

Annex II

List of documents before the Committee at its forty-sixth session

A/61/6 (Part one)	Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009:
	Part one: Plan outline
	Part two: Biennial programme plan
A/61/6 (Prog. 1)	General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management
A/61/6 (Prog. 2)	Political affairs
A/61/6 (Prog. 3)	Disarmament
A/61/6 (Prog. 4)	Peacekeeping operations
A/61/6 (Prog. 5)	Peaceful uses of outer space
A/61/6 (Prog. 6)	Legal affairs
A/61/6 (Prog. 7)	Economic and social affairs
A/61/6 (Prog. 8)	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
A/61/6 (Prog. 9)	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
A/61/6 (Prog. 10)	Trade and development
A/61/6 (Prog. 11)	Environment
A/61/6 (Prog. 12)	Human settlements
A/61/6 (Prog. 13)	International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice
A/61/6 (Prog. 14) Rev.1	Economic and social development in Africa
A/61/6 (Prog. 15)	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific
A/61/6 (Prog. 16)	Economic development in Europe
A/61/6 (Prog. 17)	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean
A/61/6 (Prog. 18)	Economic and social development in Western Asia
A/61/6 (Prog. 19)	Human rights
A/61/6 (Prog. 20)	International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees
A/61/6 (Prog. 21)	Palestine refugees

A/61/6 (Prog. 22)	Humanitarian assistance
A/61/6 (Prog. 23)	Public information
A/61/6 (Prog. 24)	Management and support services
A/61/6 (Prog. 25)	Internal oversight
A/61/6 (Prog. 26)	Jointly financed activities
A/61/6 (Prog. 27)	Safety and security
A/61/64	Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005
A/61/69	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development"
A/61/69/Add.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development"
A/61/83 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of the Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives
A/61/131	Note by the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to the 2005 World Summit Outcome: programme narratives
A/61/125	Proposed revisions to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007
A/60/537	Report of the Secretary-General on the 2005 World Summit Outcome: revised estimates to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 under sections 1, 2, 3, 11, 16, 23, 28A, 28C, 28D, 28E, 28F and 29 and to the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006
A/61/21/Add.1	Report on the twenty-eighth session of the Committee on Information
E/2006/66	Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2005/06

E/AC.51/2006/1	Annotated provisional agenda of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/2006/2	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration
E/AC.51/2006/3	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the usefulness of the pilot thematic evaluation
E/AC.51/2006/4 and Add.1	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on an in-depth evaluation of political affairs
E/AC.51/2006/5	Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the law of the sea and ocean affairs
E/AC.51/2006/6	Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/AC.51/2006/L.1 and Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/2006/L.2	Note by the Secretariat on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit
E/AC.51/2006/L.3	Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-seventh session of the Committee
E/AC.51/2006/L.4 and Add.1-___	Draft report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session
E/AC.51/2006/CRP.1	Note by the Secretariat on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009: review of part two: biennial programme plan by sectoral, functional and regional bodies
E/AC.51/2006/INF.1	List of delegations

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Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation (item 3 (d))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/61/83 and Corr.1).

2. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The view was expressed that evaluation was a critically important function and that the report was a helpful and informative account of the frequency and quality of evaluation practice. The report indicated with concern how evaluation was functioning across the Secretariat. It was noted with regret that evaluation seemed to be of low priority and that so few staff members were working in that area. There appeared to be many internal needs in that regard, particularly in terms of training staff in evaluation techniques in order to enhance the overall quality of the evaluations within the Secretariat. Furthermore, there appeared to be serious gaps

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within the Secretariat in that area, including an absence of clarity surrounding leadership, insufficient capacity, and a need to improve internal structures for evaluation.

4. Delegations noted that improving the practice of self-evaluation was crucial and required commitment from senior managers, and agreement was expressed with the measures outlined in the report in that regard. It was noted that there was a need to ensure that programme managers take responsibility for self-evaluation, and that this approach would encourage greater accountability by having managers themselves explain their findings and respond to Member States' questions and feedback. Managers should therefore absorb and adapt best practices for self-evaluation so that they had the tools to improve their programmes. It was viewed as important that evaluation recommendations be directly linked to the next stage of the planning cycle and the adoption of the budget. The needs assessment exercise described in paragraph 29 of the report was seen as an important first step in improving the current evaluation practice in the Secretariat. The objective of the exercise was to help each of the programmes determine the type of evaluation that was best suited to its work, assess current capacity and gaps, then feed that information into evaluation planning and budgeting.

5. Questions were raised about the type of evaluation training for staff currently undertaken by OIOS. It was explained that in the light of staff constraints, OIOS had not been able to conduct any training in recent years, indicating a notable gap. OIOS explained its current strategy for filling that gap: development of a training module on evaluation to be incorporated into existing training being conducted by the Office of Human Resources Management and other parts of the Secretariat. The module was slated to be piloted in the regional commissions towards the end of 2006 or early in 2007.

6. Clarification was requested on the actions being taken to follow up on the implementation of evaluation recommendations. The OIOS representative described the existing system by which progress on the implementation of recommendations was assessed. The process is based on a consultative process with the programmes in question six months after the OIOS report findings are disseminated. In addition, the triennial review process has led to a more systematic evaluation and assessment of the type of changes and impact of the evaluation recommendations.

7. Questions on the mandate and nature of the report were raised by delegations. It was observed that the current report contained information about process and the quality of evaluation efforts throughout the Secretariat. What would be more useful, however, would be objective assessment by OIOS of the impact of those evaluation efforts, in order to show what improvements and changes had been effected. There was a need to deliberate on and revisit the value added of the report. In addition, it was noted that OIOS reports themselves were of mixed quality, and that OIOS itself should therefore look to improving its own reports as some OIOS reports were academic and not very practical.

8. With respect to topics for future evaluation (paras. 33-37), one delegation indicated that it would reserve its position on the subject until a later stage of the Committee's deliberations.

Conclusion and recommendations

9. **The Committee selected the following topics for in-depth evaluation, to be presented to the Committee for its consideration: in 2008, Department of Management — Office of Human Resources Management; and in 2009, United Nations support for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and Africa.**

10. **The Committee selected the following topics for thematic evaluation, to be presented to the Committee for its consideration: in 2008, Lessons learned: protocols and practices; and in 2009, United Nations coordinating bodies, to be undertaken in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999 and 59/272 of 23 December 2004.**

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Programme questions: Evaluation (item 3 (d))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the thematic evaluation of knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration (E/AC.51/2006/2).

2. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations raised concerns about the implications of the negative findings of the evaluation. In particular, concerns were raised about the lack of mechanisms and tools to capture the institutional memory of retiring staff. The adverse implications of outsourcing, including the resulting loss of institutional memory, were also noted. Concerns were also raised about the finding that knowledge was not always shared in an open spirit, and about the lack of integration of knowledge-sharing into work processes. Clarification was sought as to whether the incentives and rewards for knowledge-sharing should be moral, financial or both. It was noted that the Dag Hammarskjöld Library had the appropriate expertise to assume a leadership role in

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the Secretariat with regard to knowledge-sharing, and that existing information and communications technology should also be utilized.

4. Questions were raised about the methodology utilized for the evaluation, in particular the low response rates of subprogrammes and the selection of entities interviewed. The representative of OIOS noted that the response rates achieved in the evaluation compared favourably to the norm for Secretariat surveys, and that the external entities selected for interviews were acknowledged leaders in knowledge management. A question was raised regarding the feasibility of measuring the impact of knowledge networks on the achievement of the Millennium Declaration Goals. The clarification sought on the mandate for the evaluation was provided by the OIOS representative.

5. General support was expressed for the recommendations contained in the report. It was stated that they had important, system-wide implications beyond the Millennium Declaration Goals, and that changes would have to be made incrementally rather than merely creating additional procedures with little added value. The question was raised how a knowledge management strategy would be operationalized.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee commended the Office of Internal Oversight Services for its excellent report and for raising awareness of this important topic and its role in improving programme implementation in the Secretariat, including in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration.**

7. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly:**

(a) **Welcome the knowledge-sharing initiatives being pursued by several United Nations entities, including the Secretariat Task Force on Knowledge-Sharing, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) Task Force on Knowledge-Sharing and the United Nations Development Group Working Group on Knowledge Management;**

(b) **Request the Secretary-General, as Chairman of CEB, to encourage the Board's newly established Task Force on Knowledge-Sharing to fully consider the recommendation contained in paragraph 72 of the report;**

(c) **Request the Secretary-General to expand the membership of the Secretariat Task Force and to include additional substantive offices;**

(d) **Request the Secretariat Task Force, under the leadership of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library, which has the appropriate expertise, to continue to develop a Secretariat knowledge-sharing agenda, taking into account the recommendations contained in paragraphs 73, 74, 76 and 77 of the report and the knowledge-sharing initiatives being pursued by other United Nations entities, including the CEB Task Force on Knowledge-Sharing, the Working Group on Knowledge Management of the United Nations Development Group, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund;**

(e) **Also request the Secretary-General to consider designating the Knowledge-Sharing Section of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library as the lead Secretariat unit with responsibility for developing, encouraging, facilitating**

and guiding knowledge-sharing in the Secretariat, taking into account the recommendation contained in paragraph 75 of the report;

(f) Further request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Committee on Information, on the further development of the knowledge-sharing initiatives of the Secretariat.

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation (item 3 (d))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the usefulness of the pilot thematic evaluation

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on the usefulness of the pilot thematic evaluation (E/AC.51/2006/3).

2. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Member States were encouraged to draw from the findings of the report on the usefulness of the pilot thematic evaluation in deciding on the usefulness of thematic evaluations more generally. The representative of OIOS noted that the report had been mandated by the Committee. The identification of lessons learned from the pilot thematic evaluation was commended. The continuation of OIOS thematic evaluations was supported and it was stated that they were helpful.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. **The Committee agreed that OIOS should continue to undertake a thematic evaluation for submission to the Committee.**

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Programme questions. Evaluation (item 3 (d))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on an in-depth evaluation of political affairs

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on an in-depth evaluation of political affairs (E/AC.51/2006/4) and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (E/AC.51/2006/4/Add.1).

2. The representative of OIOS introduced the report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the informative and comprehensive nature of the report and for the recommendations made. Concern was expressed regarding some of the key findings, in particular: the low capacity of the regional divisions relative to their broad and important mandates; the lack of conceptual clarity in operational work in conflict prevention, peacemaking and post-conflict peacebuilding; the mixed capability of the regional divisions to produce informational and analytical products of consistently high quality; and the apparent low priority given to gender mainstreaming issues in the Department of Political Affairs.

4. With regard to the finding that significant strengthening and retooling of the regional divisions was needed, it was noted that OIOS fell short of making concrete

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recommendations on how the regional divisions could be strengthened and retooled. The recommendation for the regional divisions to undergo an intensive change-management process to review and make concrete strengthening proposals would cause further delay in addressing the issue. It was furthermore suggested that OIOS should take into consideration the request for it to make more concrete proposals in its reports.

5. OIOS provided clarification on a number of issues, including: how some of the more ambitious recommendations requiring broad consultation with the United Nations and other actors could be implemented; the nature of the problematic relationship between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs; the implications for the quality of Security Council reports of the mixed quality of the regional divisions' analytical outputs; the division of labour between the recently established Peacebuilding Support Office and the regional divisions; whether Member States were consulted in the assessment of the quality of the work of regional divisions; the lack of geographical diversity in the choice of external analytical and information support utilized by the Department of Political Affairs; and the mandate for OIOS to produce the subject report.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee welcomed the findings of the in-depth evaluation of the Department of Political Affairs and encouraged OIOS to continue its evaluation of the remaining subprogrammes of the Department to be submitted at its next session, and endorsed the 10 recommendations contained in paragraphs 74 to 83 of the report.**

7. **While recognizing the use made by the Department of Political Affairs of academic and non-governmental organizations for information-gathering and analytical tasks, the Committee stressed that it was important for the Department to retain sufficient analytical capability to ensure that issues continue to be viewed from a multilateral perspective.**

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Programme questions: Evaluation (item 3 (d))

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the law of the sea and ocean affairs

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third session on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on the law of the sea and ocean affairs (E/AC.51/2006/5).

2. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services introduced the report and responded, together with the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea was commended for increasing its capacity and for its increasing use of non-governmental organizations

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(NGOs). However, concern was expressed over NGOs serving on UN-Oceans task forces, and the report's section on States' obligations was cited as one example of how NGO input might lead to erroneous statements.

4. It was noted that the Division, since its establishment in 1992, has made a significant contribution in coordinating the international effort on issues related to the oceans and in increasing the United Nations role by way of the Convention. Further, the work of the Division in increasing the number of parties to the Convention was recognized. Taking account of the nature of the work of the Division, the question was raised as to how it proposes to improve its staff capacity and overall efficiency, and how it can be ensured that funds are being targeted towards highest-priority issues and that the Division has sufficient resources and staff capacity to do so.

5. With respect to improving staff capacity and efficiency, the Director of the Division explained that it relies on several additional sources, both inside and outside the United Nations, to supplement its current capacity through knowledge-sharing. He added that the Division is charged with implementing agreements, a mandate that requires expertise in several areas in which it does not currently have specialized divisions. In this regard, he cited the recent example of two officers at the General Service level who have acquired the technical expertise in this manner on issues related to the continental shelf. The Division is also eliciting expertise from units within the Secretariat that not only have the requisite expertise to fill current knowledge gaps themselves, but also have relationships with outside experts who can further augment the Division's current capacity in relation to the law of the seas and other areas. The Director reported that the Division has requested more resources to assist it in implementing the tasks outlined in the report, with specific line items surrounding technical requirements, staffing and other matters. That request, he noted, will likely be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. **The Committee concluded that the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea had implemented all the recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-third session.**

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Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Coordination questions: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (item 4 (a))

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2005/06

1. At its 4th meeting, on 15 August 2006, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2005-2006 (E/2006/66).

2. The Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegates welcomed the report as both important and useful and expressed satisfaction with its comprehensive nature, particularly the way in which it clearly highlighted the work and the progress achieved in inter-agency cooperation during 2005/06. Support was also voiced for CEB, its vital role of coordinating and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system and the central role it plays, both from the perspective of sharing experiences among United Nations organizations and in terms of developing a coordinating strategy and policy aimed at enhancing the output of the organizations of the United Nations system.

4. The role of CEB in promoting a culture of cooperation among United Nations-system organizations and in providing cohesion to the system was supported. CEB was found to be uniquely placed to help the United Nations system move forward on

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some of the changes and reforms that the Member States have been discussing over the past years.

5. The achievements of CEB with regard to priority issues such as coherence at the country level, gender mainstreaming, knowledge management and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development were noted. The coordination and joint participation of United Nations-system organizations in the areas of safety and security of United Nations personnel, strengthening transparency and accountability and introducing information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the area of management and operational activities were also found to be important. With regard to the latter, it was observed that ICT plays a critical role in almost every operational and management aspect of the United Nations system and can be a powerful tool to reduce duplication and allow the organizations of the United Nations system to interact more easily.

6. Delegates noted the efforts of CEB to implement the decisions set out in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the relevance of attention to the issues of hunger, employment and migration for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Support was also expressed for the activities developed by the Human Resources Network, in relation to mobility and hardship allowances and the harmonization of remuneration packages. The harmonization of the various United Nations HIV workplace initiatives into one common United Nations programme was also welcomed. The principle that collaboration in the area of management must be strengthened was also supported.

7. CEB interaction with the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, particularly in the area of financial issues, given the continuing efforts of CEB towards providing full transparency in questions relating to extrabudgetary resources, was noted. The view was expressed that CEB should strive to further improve its working methods in this area.

8. CEB was requested to elaborate on developments in the area of sharing of experiences in future annual overview reports, specifically focusing on knowledge management and poverty, although members noted that some activities to share best practices appeared more ad hoc and passive, and that CEB should adopt a more active model in this regard. In respect of enhancing human resources management and inter-agency collaboration on ICT, delegates expressed the view that they would count on CEB to lead those initiatives. Finally, with regard to enhancing financial resources management, the opinion was expressed that CEB should strive to make further progress towards full transparency on extrabudgetary resources.

9. During the discussions, suggestions for consideration by CEB included the following:

(a) In the area of governance and accountability, members fully supported the initiative to create in the United Nations a more effective system of governance and suggested a new code of conduct for business purposes that included measures to strengthen the capacities of organizations to detect and prevent fraud and corruption;

(b) In the area of finance and budget, the Committee urged CEB and its relevant structures to expand coordination through further exchanges of experience and best practices;

(c) In the area of gender equality and empowerment of women, members noted with concern an apparent lack of progress and suggested that CEB could provide specific proposals in this regard in the future;

(d) In the area of knowledge management and knowledge-sharing, members were of the view that CEB should continue to have an important role to play in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Office of Internal Oversight Services report on the thematic evaluation of "knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration" (E/AC.51/2006/2);

(e) Members pointed out that it is important that future CEB reports reflect the practical results of its reform and its influence on the different areas of inter-agency coordination, and that they provide more specific information on the problems encountered in its coordination efforts and how they were resolved.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee took note of the annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2005/06, subject to the observations set out below.**

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly welcome the inclusion of information on progress being achieved and problems being encountered by the relevant inter-agency mechanisms in the fight against hunger and poverty.**

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request CEB to continue to monitor the effective collaboration of system-wide efforts against hunger and poverty.**

13. **The Committee recommended that the Assembly express regret that the international response to reducing undernutrition has generally been insufficient and that there was a decline of over 50 per cent in the share of agricultural official development assistance during the last decade, and that the Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to take the necessary actions to address this situation.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the Assembly request CEB to report in its annual reports on the progress being achieved regarding the main difficulties encountered by the organizations of the system in addressing the issue of malnutrition and hunger (see E/2006/66, para. 34).**

15. **The Committee highlighted the high priority that CEB continued to attach to ensuring the effectiveness and coordination of the United Nations system support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development and requested CEB to ensure that support for the New Partnership remained a priority for the United Nations system. It encouraged CEB member organizations to further align their priorities with those of the New Partnership and to scale up their efforts in support of it.**

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Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development (item 4 (b))
Report of the Joint Inspection Unit (item 5)

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 4th and 6th meetings, on 15 and 16 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2006/6). In conjunction with that report, the Committee also considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/61/69) and the comments thereon of the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) (A/61/69/Add.1).

2. The Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the Secretary-General's report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report. An inspector introduced the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and responded to questions raised. The Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report containing the comments of the Secretary-General and CEB thereon.

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Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the useful and informative nature of the two reports. Regarding the Secretary-General's report, some delegations noted that impact analysis and assessment of United Nations assistance to NEPAD as well as monitoring of the commitments of the international community should be incorporated into future reports. Another delegation noted with surprise that UNICEF was not included in the report, and recommended that in view of its important work in Africa, future reports should include it.

4. With regard to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, clarification was provided as to its nature. The inspector confirmed that the report was not about NEPAD per se, but about the coordinating role of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), including the institutional and coordination arrangements of United Nations agencies working in Africa.

5. Strong statements of support for NEPAD were made, and the important role of United Nations system agencies in the implementation of NEPAD was highlighted. The importance of effective institutional architecture and better coordination among agencies for United Nations system support for Africa was particularly emphasized.

6. Support was expressed for the role of the Office of the Special Adviser as the focal point for United Nations support for NEPAD at the global level, while the key role of ECA in coordinating the contributions of United Nations agencies to NEPAD implementation at the regional and subregional levels was acknowledged. In particular, a number of delegations emphasized that the role of ECA as strategic coordinator should be strengthened.

7. The view was expressed that NEPAD provided good opportunities for agencies to work together, and that collaboration and coordination of agencies would need to be improved in the future. In addition, a delegation expressed its hope that NEPAD-related coordination could result in greater cooperation among United Nations agencies than was currently the case.

8. Concern was voiced as to the significant financial implications of some recommendations made in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit. Concern was also voiced over the possible loss of operational capacity by United Nations agencies, which may second their staff to ECA.

9. The Committee's central role in matters of programming and coordinating was highlighted, including in particular its role in helping implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2006/6) and noted the key achievements of the United Nations system aimed at fulfilling its role in the implementation of NEPAD.**

11. **The Committee recognized that the United Nations system continued to make a concrete contribution to the objectives of NEPAD, through assistance to African countries, the African Union and African subregional organizations.**

12. The Committee reiterated the importance of Africa's ownership and leadership of NEPAD, which are regarded as key factors to progress in its implementation.

13. The Committee endorsed the recommendations contained in paragraphs 79 to 81 of the report. The Committee also urged the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to take note of the reports of OIOS in respect of knowledge-sharing and to participate in the follow-up processes.

14. The Committee welcomed the support provided by United Nations bodies, funds and agencies for NEPAD and reiterated the central and critical roles of CEB and the Office of the Special Adviser for the advocacy and fostering of international support for NEPAD at the global level. In that regard, the Committee stressed the vital role of the Office of the Special Adviser in the activities of the advocacy and communications cluster.

15. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser in order to accelerate the implementation of NEPAD and effectively fulfil its mandate to coordinate resource and capacity mobilization, institutional support and advocacy to enhance a coordinated and integrated response to the challenges facing Africa.

16. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Office of the Special Adviser to provide leadership and coordinated support to African countries, ECA and the African Union.

17. The Committee noted with concern that several challenges and constraints, mainly concerning issues of coordination, collaboration and funding, continued to hinder the full effectiveness of the United Nations system in the implementation of NEPAD, and urged the various components of the United Nations system to make greater efforts to work together to ensure the proper utilization of talents and resources. The Committee encouraged the practical implementation of inter-agency coordination; regular and periodic dialogue with ECA, the African Union and the NEPAD secretariat; and inter-agency joint planning.

18. The Committee stressed that the United Nations system constituted a crucial pillar in the advocacy for and delivery of international support to Africa and therefore also needed to monitor international commitments in support of NEPAD to avoid duplication.

19. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly consider recommendations 1 to 10, as contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/61/69).

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Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Programme questions: programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 3 (a))

Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005

1. At its 6th meeting, on 16 August 2006, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/61/64).

2. The representative of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) introduced the programme performance report and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations commended OIOS for improving the programme performance report and for responding positively to requests by the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination to improve performance reporting and advance a results-based culture in the United Nations. However, regret was expressed that the use of programme performance data in decision-making seemed to be the exception rather than the rule.

4. The extensive use of hyperlinks in the electronic version of the programme performance report, as posted on the Internet, was welcomed as a means of

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providing easy and wide access to related documents and detailed information on programme performance and the achievements of the United Nations. The increased use of information on client satisfaction, as a way to assess the performance of the United Nations, was welcomed by the delegations.

5. Delegations reiterated the need to establish a link between financial and programmatic information so as to better assess programme performance. This linkage was of importance for the success of results-based management within the Organization. The efforts of the Secretariat in this regard should be strengthened, it was pointed out.

6. The comprehensiveness and inclusive nature of the report, which provided information on more than 33,000 outputs for 29 budget sections with breakdowns and details, was deemed useful for Member States in supporting their decision-making on priorities and funding, representatives stated. There was a need to apply a coherent methodology for measuring and reporting outputs, including those that are not easily quantifiable. The reporting of technical cooperation outputs as part of a separate section in the programme performance report was appreciated. The view was expressed that indicators of achievement should be firmly aligned with the expected accomplishments, as these were often vague. In addition, indicators of achievement often lacked an immediate connection to performance measures, which should be more uniform.

7. The overall Secretariat implementation rate of 91 per cent for the biennium 2004-2005, as compared to 85 per cent attained in 2002-2003, was noted with satisfaction and appreciation. It was noted that this was a reflection of improved programme planning and a step in the right direction towards more efficient programme implementation.

8. The deepening involvement of programme managers, while appreciated, needed further improvement to ensure achievement of results and optimal use of resources. It was emphasized that, in the future, the participation of senior programme managers in results-based management training should be enhanced. Furthermore, the development of a Secretariat-wide system to support results based management was needed.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee commended the Office of Internal Oversight Services for improving the programme performance report and for responding positively to requests by the General Assembly and the Committee for Programme and Coordination to improve performance reporting and advance a results-based culture in the United Nations. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that all programme managers and their staff improve their performance in the area of utilizing programme performance data in decision-making.**

10. **While recognizing the improvements in the issuance of the report in relation to the previous biennium, the Committee noted with concern that the report was not issued in accordance with the six-week rule[1] and stressed the**

[1] Rule 13, paragraph 4, of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2).

need for compliance. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to emphasize the need for all departments to provide the required information on time in order to facilitate proper and more effective consideration of the report by Member States.

11. The Committee noted with appreciation that the programme performance report included in each section a box with a brief description of challenges, obstacles and unmet goals, as requested by the Committee during its forty-fourth session. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to continue to develop this information in particular for unmet goals, in order to improve consistency and standardize the presentation of information across all programmes.

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that, in addition to quantitative parameters, more importance should be given in future programme performance reports to the qualitative assessment of programme implementation. The Committee stressed the need to enhance quality control and evaluation criteria for the implementation of programmes.

13. The Committee stressed the importance of a more introspective and analytical approach, focusing on existing problems as well as on the potential for increasing the effectiveness of the implementation of programmes.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 2
Political affairs

1. At its 7th meeting, on 21 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 2)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the work of the Department of Political Affairs carried out through its various subprogrammes and the good offices of the Secretary-General.

4. It was emphasized that more closely coordinated and peaceful preventive measures, including diplomatic efforts, were the most important tools for the maintenance of international peace and security. Support was expressed for activities focused on prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, as well as for post-conflict peacebuilding activities. The view was expressed that capacity for early warning and preventive actions, including the good offices role of the Secretary-General, were central to the work of the Department of Political Affairs. It

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was pointed out that preventive diplomacy faced major challenges and required resources and innovative ideas. It was stressed that preventive measures were more cost-effective than peacekeeping operations in maintaining international peace and security.

5. Support was expressed for the important post-conflict peacebuilding activities, especially in countries coming out of conflict. It was observed that the positive results of the work of the regional organizations in relation to the prevention, control and resolution of conflicts was important and needed to be reflected in the biennial programme plan.

6. Appreciation and support were expressed for the important work carried out by the Department in promoting democracy and in providing electoral assistance, especially in countries where conflict situations had ended. It was emphasized that such work should be continued.

7. Support was expressed for the work carried out under subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, which was as important to the non-members of the Security Council as it was for the members of the Council. It was observed that it was necessary for the Department of Political Affairs to revisit the issues relating to the application of sanctions.

8. Views were expressed in support of the mandate of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as well as of the United Nations activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration. Views were expressed that the Special Committee was established by the General Assembly and that it must continue to carry out its functions as mandated by the Assembly until all the 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories became independent. The view was also expressed that, as already indicated in the context of the review of mandates of the Organization requested in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 163 (b)), the Special Committee should be downsized or abolished.

9. Views were expressed in support of the activities carried out in relation to the question of Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. Concern also was expressed on the current situation in the Middle East. It was pointed out that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established by the General Assembly and that it must carry out its mandate accordingly until the question of Palestine was resolved. It was also pointed out that efforts to increase the awareness of the international community and its related support were important in seeking a solution to the question of Palestine. It was observed that the activities of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division of Palestinian Rights were not balanced and did not contribute to the efforts of the Diplomatic Quartet on the Middle East and, in that regard, the view was expressed that the Committee and the Division should be abolished.

10. Support was expressed for the United Nations role with regard to the Middle East peace process carried out through the Office of the Special Coordinator.

11. It was indicated that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further improvement and refinement.

12. Clarification was sought on the access by the Department of Political Affairs to the Democracy Fund and the nature of its participation. The Committee was informed that an official from the Department of Political Affairs chaired the Project Review Committee.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 2, Political affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modification:**

Subprogramme 1
Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Replace the text of expected accomplishment (b) with "Maintenance of peace processes on track".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 4
Peacekeeping operations

1. At its 8th meeting, on 21 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 4)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Overall support was expressed for the programme of work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The view was expressed that peacekeeping represented one of the fundamental priorities of the work of the Organization.

4. It was stressed that the safety and security of personnel serving in the field should be accorded higher priority. Support was expressed for the integrated and coordinated approach to peacekeeping. The Committee welcomed enhanced cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and regional organizations. Appreciation was expressed for the Secretariat's efforts in supporting the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities.

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5. The Committee emphasized its support for zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping missions and for the implementation of a code of conduct among peacekeepers. Emphasis was also given to the training of United Nations personnel in peacekeeping missions and to gender and geographical balance in the staffing of peacekeeping missions.

6. The view was expressed that the rapid deployment of military and police components was essential to the success of peacekeeping missions. It was indicated that there should be a continuous flow of information to and from Member States, particularly troop-contributing countries, in all phases of peacekeeping operations. It was pointed out that the programme should also incorporate disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities, quick-impact projects, post-conflict reconstruction and development activities.

7. The view was expressed that more information could be included under subprogramme 5, Mine action coordination, in particular with regard to mandates, areas of coverage, participation of developing countries in the subprogramme and the extent of coordination and cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

8. It was indicated that some of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further refinement.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. **The Committee recommended that in implementing activities under this programme, special attention be given to enhancing the safety and security of all United Nations staff and personnel, including peacekeepers in the field, in coordination with the Department of Safety and Security.**

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 4, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 3
Military

Strategy

Paragraph 4.9

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and the procedures that address issues related to conduct and discipline".

Subprogramme 4
Civilian police

In expected accomplishments (a) and (b) and in paragraphs 4.11 and 4.14, replace the words "peace operations" with the words "peacekeeping operations".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment as follows:

"(c) Sustainable national police services supported for post-conflict societies".

Indicat . of achievement

Add new indicator of achievement as follows:

"(c) Increased number of post-conflict societies in which sustainable national police institutions and services have been developed".

Strategy

Paragraph 4.14

In the last sentence, delete the words, "such as the Rule of Law Index, to independently and critically assess local criminal justice systems; and the international police advisory council, which will advise on international strategic police matters".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

1. At its 13th meeting, on 24 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 8)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Overall support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in mobilizing and coordinating international support for the programme. The view was expressed that the proposed biennial programme plan for the programme was well presented. It was also indicated that international resources would be necessary for implementation of the Brussels and the Almaty Programmes of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

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4. Emphasis was given to the evaluation of the impact of the programme, the reporting on the status of the implementation of the three programmes of action, the inter-agency partnership and coordination, and the participation of countries concerned in formulating the programme.

5. Concern was expressed that the proposed biennial programme plan for the programme was very general in nature. It was suggested that specific areas of development such as agriculture, energy and trade, might be included. Concern was also expressed on the status of implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action. Clarification was sought on how the international commitments to support least developed countries could be ensured. It was suggested that the objective of subprogramme 1 could be applied to the other two subprogrammes.

6. Regarding subprogramme 3, it was stressed that there was a need to enhance partnership in support for the small island developing States. The Office was encouraged to promote awareness about those States through the use of information technology and United Nations websites and publications.

7. Further refinements to some indicators of achievement would be welcome.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee stressed the importance of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and expressed support for the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in coordinating and mobilizing international support and enhancing inter-agency collaboration for the programme.**

9. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**

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Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 9
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 15th meeting, on 25 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 9)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Strong support was expressed for the programme and appreciation was expressed for the important coordinating role and work so far of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. The view was expressed that the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) represented a vision and a strategic framework for Africa's renewal.

4. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the programme in providing a framework for coordinated and coherent support by the international community for Africa's development, which would be an important tool for Africa in realizing the

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Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, the view was expressed that the achievement of the Goals could not be accomplished by Africa on its own but that the mobilization of the international community was required to provide the necessary resources and increase development assistance efforts, including overseas development aid, provide long-term development support, ensure close working relationships with the Bretton Woods institutions and strengthen South-South cooperation in support of Africa's development.

5. It was hoped that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa would continue to fulfil its mandate of effectively monitoring the implementation of the relevant commitments contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1) and that an appropriate follow-up mechanism would be put in place to ensure that the substantive proposals contained in the Outcome were pursued.

6. The view was expressed that global advocacy, regional coordination and public information and awareness in support of NEPAD were important objectives.

7. It was recognized that one of the biggest challenges facing NEPAD at the moment was to find human resources capacity at the national and regional levels to implement the programme. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was encouraged to pursue greater strategic oversight of the implementation of regional coordination.

8. It was emphasized that a stable and prosperous Africa was essential for world peace and development, and as such the view was expressed that African countries needed to intensify their efforts, with concerted support from the international community, including the United Nations system, to bring about durable peace and sustainable development in Africa and to fight corruption.

9. While it was acknowledged that advocacy was an important part of subprogramme 1, Coordination of global advocacy of and support for NEPAD, the view was expressed that the focus should not only be on United Nations systems support and that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa should develop a strategy for outside support. At the same time, measures should be taken to develop a more effective awareness campaign and to establish a link between the United Nations University and academic institutions in Africa, as education and information exchange are regarded as key success factors for the development of Africa.

10. The view was expressed that there was a need to increase the visibility of the activities and objectives of United Nations support for NEPAD, which were not yet sufficiently known, both inside and outside of Africa.

11. The importance of subprogramme 3, Public information and awareness activities in support of NEPAD, was acknowledged as a means of increasing international awareness and mobilizing support for the development of Africa through the existing Department of Public Information network and the media; hence the need for effective coordination between the Department and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was emphasized in order to achieve the overall objective of global advocacy in support of Africa's development. At the same time, the Office and the Department were encouraged to continue to expand and develop their advocacy on behalf of Africa to include activities at the grass-roots level in order to establish a clear understanding of the objectives of United Nations system support for NEPAD at all levels, as well as targeting business groups as a source of

concrete partnerships and projects. At the same time, structured cooperation with the mass media should form part of the public information campaign.

12. It was indicated that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further refinement, especially with regard to making reference to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 9, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of accomplishment (b), insert the words ", with the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals".

Strategy

Paragraph 9.10

At the end of the paragraph, add the following sentence: "The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will make available on its website summary updates of monitoring done by expert bodies of progress in implementing commitments made to Africa in this context."

Subprogramme 3
Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization

After the words "sustainable development of the region" replace the word "support" with the words "pursuit of the goals".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add new accomplishment (c) reading "(c) Enhanced awareness of the target audience of the aims of NEPAD".

Indicators of achievement

Add new indicator (c) reading "(c) The percentage of the target audience indicating awareness of the aims of NEPAD".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

1. At its 12th meeting, on 23 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 16)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme. The support provided to countries in the region with economies in transition, as well as the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, were noted with appreciation. In this context, it was emphasized that the strategy of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) should further the strengthening of the national capacity of the countries with economies in transition and the outreach towards the business and non-governmental organization communities in those countries.

4. The view was expressed that the regional commissions were important instruments entrusted with tasks related to development in their respective regions. The view was also expressed that the need for regional commissions remained great

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and that the commissions had demonstrated the ability to adapt to ever-changing circumstances while carrying out the important task of implementing the Millennium Development Goals across a vast geographical area.

5. Appreciation was also expressed for the reform carried out by ECE in 2005, based on recommendations on the role, mandate and functions of the Commission reflected in a report on the state of ECE, which had placed ECE on a new level. The reform was welcomed, particularly given the emphasis it placed on better interaction and interface with other international organizations active in the region. It was pointed out that the ECE reform was regarded as part of the overall reform of the United Nations. Support was also expressed for the changes made in the governance structure of ECE. The need to further strengthen accountability and transparency within ECE was recognized and, in this connection, the establishment of a Programme Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit within the Office of the Executive Secretary was welcomed.

6. The view was also expressed that the strategy of subprogramme 1, Environment, should include a reference to cooperation with other entities, such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

7. Appreciation was expressed for the availability of macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics collected and distributed to countries of the region. Furthermore, the strategy of the programme to provide public access to all meeting documents, work programmes and statistical standards and recommendations to provide the basis for transparency and accountability was commended.

8. The establishment of subprogramme 4, Economic cooperation and integration, was welcomed. It was pointed out that the subprogramme was designed to provide much-needed financial assistance to countries with economies in transition. The view was further expressed that it would be relevant to have an indicator of achievement related to the number of countries expressing satisfaction with the advice rendered.

9. The view was expressed that for subprogramme 5, Sustainable energy, more prominence should have been given to furthering participation of all relevant stakeholders.

10. The need to continue to ensure international regional cooperation as part of the strategy of subprogramme 7, Timber and forestry, was emphasized.

11. The view was expressed concerning subprogramme 8, Housing, land management and population, that strengthening the local capacity was essential in developing housing and urban governance. The view was also expressed that consideration should be given to including the issue of migration in the activities of the subprogramme.

12. The view was expressed that ECE currently had no standardized evaluation system in place for its subprogrammes, and it was requested that an evaluation mechanism be implemented and streamlined across all subprogrammes.

13. The representative of the Secretary-General, in his response to the comments made by the Committee, indicated that the evaluation of all subprogrammes was currently conducted according to instructions and guidelines provided by the Office of Internal Oversight Services and that ECE was in the process of issuing an

evaluation guide in response to a decision of the Commission to have biennial evaluations conducted by all ECE sectoral committees.

Conclusions and recommendations

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the narrative of programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Subprogramme 1
Environment

Indicators of achievement

To indicator (a), add new indicator (iii) reading: "(iii) Increased number of actions taken in order to promote public access to environmental information".

Subprogramme 4
Economic cooperation and integration

Indicators of achievement

To indicators (a) and (c) (i), delete the word "increased" at the beginning of the indicator.

Renumber indicator (a) as (a) (i) and add a new indicator (a) (ii) reading: "(ii) Number of countries indicating satisfaction with training events".

15. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposed revisions to programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007 (see A/61/125).**

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3(b))

Programme 17
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 12th meeting, on 23 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 17)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Full support was expressed for programme 17 and all its subprogrammes. The work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as a centre of excellence was also commended. It was observed that ECLAC played a key role in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals of the Millennium Declaration. The important role of ECLAC in eradicating poverty and hunger, enhancing regional integration and social cohesion and strengthening gender mainstreaming in public policies was also emphasized. It was noted that the role and work of the Commission in mobilizing public opinion and in supporting the

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countries of the region in their efforts to attain the Millennium Declaration Goals should be strengthened.

4. The view was expressed that, in implementing the thematic priorities of the Commission, the development of small island developing States in the Caribbean region should be brought into sharper focus, in accordance with the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

5. It was observed that the Commission, while promoting regional integration and cooperation, also provided valuable analytical, normative and operational support. The very positive role of the regular programme of technical cooperation as an operational component of the ECLAC subprogrammes was stressed. The importance of ECLAC training programmes, especially for promoting employment and the development of human capital in the region, was emphasized. The view was expressed that the links between the sustainable development of Caribbean small island developing States and their training requirements under subprogrammes 8 and 12 should be elaborated on further.

6. Regarding subprogramme 1, strategies designed for strengthening the capacities of the countries of the region in trade negotiations were welcomed.

7. It was observed that under subprogramme 2, more emphasis should be placed on joint work with other entities, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the importance of knowledge-based instruments and assets should be stressed.

8. It was noted that under subprogramme 3, indicator of achievement (a) on increased percentage of users should specifically refer to competent authorities.

9. The view was expressed that under subprogramme 4, the work on the eradication of poverty and reduction of social inequalities should be expedited and strengthened. It was also stressed that the eradication of poverty was the joint responsibility of all partners.

10. The strategy of promoting gender equality and women's empowerment under subprogramme 5 was supported. It was observed, in that regard, that gender equality was a catalyst for social change.

11. As to subprogramme 6, satisfaction was expressed with highlighting the migration issues in the strategy part.

12. The view was expressed that reference to the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States should be included in the strategy of subprogramme 8.

13. It was observed that under subprogramme 9, more emphasis should be placed on training in the sustainable use of energy and renewable energy sources.

14. The view was expressed that the formulation of expected accomplishments under subprogramme 12 did not adequately address the requirements of the subregion and should be strengthened. It was also observed that there was a dire need to strengthen national capacities in disaster preparedness and prevention. The importance of using experience gained by other entities in the area of disaster preparedness was stressed.

Conclusions and recommendations

15. **The Committee noted with appreciation the strategic framework for ECLAC under programme 17, which took into consideration the development goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, and highlighted the Commission's role in formulating appropriate measures to promote the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean and the greater integration of the region in the global economy. In that context, the Committee recognized the importance of the regional perspective in implementing those goals and emphasized the need to strengthen the programmes and activities conducted by the Commission's subregional and country offices seeking to achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable development in the region.**

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 17.3

At the end of the second sentence, add the words "and the problems of the current international economic order".

In the fourth sentence, after the word "vulnerabilities", replace the words "are intimately related to" with the words "represent essential causes of".

Subprogrammes 1, 3, 4, 5 and 12

In the second sentence of paragraphs 17.6, 17.9, 17.11, 17.13 and 17.26, replace the words "the Millennium Declaration" with "the United Nations major conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those set forth in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome".

Subprogramme 5
Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In accomplishment (a), replace the words "both the Millennium Declaration and the regional consensuses" with "the United Nations major conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, including those set forth in the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the relevant regional consensus ".

Subprogramme 8
Sustainable development and human settlements

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of accomplishment (b), after the words "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change", add "and the Mauritius

Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

Subprogramme 12
Subregional activities in the Caribbean

Paragraph 17.26

In the last sentence, after the words "Common Market," insert the words "the Regional Negotiating Machinery, the Caribbean Development Bank ,".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 25
Internal oversight

1. At its 9th meeting, on 22 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 25, Internal oversight, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 25)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. It was noted that internal oversight offers an opportunity to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization. The view was expressed that promoting a culture of change was a challenging and demanding task to which the Office of Internal Oversight Services can make a significant contribution. At the same time, it was noted that that Office should not be a substitute for the responsibilities of management relating to change management issues, and should focus primarily on its core functions, namely, audit, monitoring, evaluation and investigation. It was also noted that the overall orientation of the programme would need to be adjusted to be fully in line with the mandate of the programme as reflected in General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994 and in subsequent resolutions.

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4. The view was expressed that Member States need information to carry out the shared role of oversight, and while more reports were not needed, Member States required more relevant and better quality reports. In particular, it was emphasized that audit reports should be issued promptly, as they lose value over time. The view was expressed that the objective formulated under subprogramme 1 does not cover the extent of the activities to be carried out. Appreciation and encouragement was expressed for coordination and dialogue with other oversight partners, including the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit. The importance of follow-up to recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services was emphasized, and support was expressed for expected accomplishment (c) under subprogramme 1, but it was noted that the indicators of achievement did not adequately reflect the ambitious accomplishment and should be revised to cover qualitative as well as quantitative aspects. Further, under the same expected accomplishment, the view was expressed on the importance of measuring the level of efficiency in the implementation of programmes, including those calling for mainstreaming of a gender perspective and related indicators of achievement. Regarding expected accomplishment (a) under subprogramme 1, it was noted that it focused on the provision of reports to programme managers, and did not reference the provision of reports to legislative bodies.

5. With regard to subprogramme 2, it was noted that the objective for 2008-2009 had been changed, and as a result the emphasis had been shifted regarding the work to be done to strengthen and implement Secretariat programmes. It was noted that expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement under that subprogramme should reflect the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in strengthening the self-evaluation capacity of the Organization. Support was expressed for the establishment of a web-based, user-friendly facility for the central deposit of evaluations and evaluative methodologies available to all staff. The view was expressed that expected accomplishment (a) and the related indicator of achievement was too broad and vague, and clarification was needed as to measurement and strategies for implementation.

6. Under subprogramme 3, it was noted that the objective for 2008-2009 had been changed, resulting in a shift in emphasis in the work to be carried out. Further, the view was expressed that a better objective had been formulated for the period 2006-2007. The view was expressed that preventive measures in relation to investigations should be reflected in the strategic framework, and the expected accomplishments should incorporate that aspect.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 25, Internal oversight, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 25.1

After the first sentence, insert the sentence "The mandate for the programme derives from the responsibility of the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer of the United Nations, entrusted to him under Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations."

Subprogramme 1
Internal audit

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Expected accomplishment (a), after the word "managers", add the words "and legislative bodies".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (i), after the words "programme managers", add the words "and Member States".

Subprogramme 3
Investigations

Objective of the Organization

Replace the objective as follows: "To ensure through investigations compliance with regulations and rules of the United Nations and to minimize the occurrence of fraud, violations of regulations and rules of the United Nations, mismanagement, misconduct, waste of resources and abuse of authority."

Indicators of achievement

In the indicator of achievement, after the word "accepted", add the words "and implemented".

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b) and (c))

Programme 14
Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 11th meeting, on 23 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 14)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation was expressed for the repositioning of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) so as to better respond to Africa's emerging challenges and the consequential revisions that had been made to programme 14. Support was further expressed for the two pillars of promoting regional integration in support of the African Union vision and priorities and meeting Africa's special needs and emerging global challenges outlined in paragraph 14.7 of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 for programme 14. The view was also expressed that in view of the consistent call of the CPC on programme managers to review their programmes, the 2008-2009 biennial programme plan for programme 14 was a good example of the usefulness of such an exercise.

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4. It was generally noted that the 2008-2009 strategic framework for programme 14 has successfully emphasized the assistance the Commission would continue to provide to African countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes that will lead to sustainable economic growth, social development and poverty reduction.

5. The Committee welcomed the progress made by ECA to align the overall objective of its programme and various subprogrammes with the goals and priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and in the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992. While encouraging ECA, the view was also expressed that the priorities of the New Partnership be given greater emphasis in the programme.

6. Support was also expressed for the focus on poverty reduction strategies and efforts to integrate the targets of the Millennium Declaration into national development programmes under the leadership of national Governments.

7. The efforts of ECA to strengthen partnerships with the African Union and African Development Bank through strengthened collaboration and the revived joint secretariat to promote joint programming of activities was commended.

8. Support was expressed for the important role performed by the subregional offices of ECA in operationalizing the analytical and normative work of the Commission at the subregional and national levels. Particularly, the view was expressed that the role of subregional offices in the work of ECA should be further strengthened, as the successful attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the New Partnership depend on the manner in which the various subregional organizations are able to implement the programmes on the subregional and national levels. The Committee noted that the comprehensive plan of action to strengthen the regional offices of ECA was being finalized for its submission to the General Assembly.

9. Support was expressed for the enhancement of macroeconomic and sectoral policy analysis, international trade and finance under subprogramme 1. A query was raised on the ECA strategy to combat the effects of globalization.

10. The view was expressed that additional indicators of achievement could be included under subprogramme 2, to measure ECA's contribution to increases in the number of agriculture activities, strategies for addressing natural resources degradation or measuring poverty reduction growth in the countries of the region. Support was expressed for the focus of subprogramme 2 on agricultural transformation and promotion of diversification, while clarification was sought on whether the critical issue of food security in Africa should be highlighted in the subprogramme.

11. Support was expressed for the focus of subprogramme 3, on the improvement of good governance practices to ensure participation in the development and governance processes, and consolidation of the foundations for sustainable development. The view was expressed that great importance was attached to the African Peer Review Mechanism of the New Partnership, and the efforts of the Commission in its support was commended. A view was expressed that an indicator of achievement should be formulated to report on the increase in training and

technical assistance rendered under the subprogramme to Member States of the region.

12. Support was expressed for the amendments to subprogramme 4 as they addressed some comments made at the forty-fourth session of the CPC. The view was expressed that great importance was attached to the efforts to address the digital divide and activities by the Commission in support of the African Information Society, the implementation of the Tunis Commitment and Agenda and the emphasis on science and technology policies. The view was expressed that a useful aspect of the strategy of subprogramme 4 would be incorporation of partner agencies as well as information on cooperation at the regional and global levels. A further view was expressed that the communication strategy of ECA should be included under subprogramme 4. The view was also expressed that an indicator of achievement should be formulated to report on the number of countries that have gained capacity for the application of information and communication technologies in key social sectors such as health and poverty reduction.

13. The view was expressed that emphasis should be placed on the development of exports and infrastructure under subprogramme 5. A query was raised on the means available to ECA to measure sustainable development and sustained economic growth.

14. Support was expressed for the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in national development policies and programmes, under subprogramme 6. The view was expressed that the empowerment of women and the improvement of their living conditions were critical for Africa's success. The views were expressed that new indicators of achievement could be included under subprogramme 6 to report on topics such as the number of women in political processes, the illiteracy among young girls or improvement in their standard of living.

15. Support was expressed for the integration efforts at the subregional level under subprogramme 7, while a view was expressed that it was not consistent with the strategy proposed. The view was expressed that the success of the New Partnership is linked to successful integration of the regional economic communities, and the extent to which the regional economic communities were able to translate the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership into concrete projects at the country level.

16. The inclusion of two new subprogrammes in programme 14; subprogrammes 9, Statistics, and 10, Social development, that would be overseen by the African Centre for Statistics and the newly established African Centre for Gender and Social Development, respectively, was commended. The view was expressed that the establishment of subprogramme 9, Statistics, was quite important as it was useful to monitor and evaluate economic management in order to take corrective measures, particularly since most African countries were not on target in meeting the internationally agreed development goals.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposed revisions to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007 of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/125).**

18. **The Committee commended ECA for reviewing programme 14 following the call of CPC for programme management to review their programmes. The Committee welcomed the assistance the Commission would continue to provide to African countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes that would lead to sustained economic development and poverty eradication in alignment with the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and other international agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.**

19. **The Committee stressed the importance of integrating a communication dimension into the different subprogrammes of ECA, with a view to increasing the awareness and support of all sectors of society, including the private sector and civil society, with regard to Africa's development challenges. In that respect, the Committee requested ECA to provide leadership and assistance to its member States, so as to improve national capacity to fashion and implement effective communication strategies.**

20. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed biennial programme plan.**

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 13th meeting, on 24 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog.18)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme. It was noted that two subprogrammes had been merged into one subprogramme for the biennium 2008-2009. However, concern was expressed as to whether all the mandates of the original two subprogrammes would be implemented effectively under the new subprogramme.

4. It was noted that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) forged partnerships with some United Nations entities as listed under subprogramme 2. Concern was expressed regarding the need for ESCWA to develop tighter cooperation with the regional office of the Economic Commission for Africa

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in North Africa, in the light of similar language and cultural values in countries in that region.

5. Concern was also expressed with regard to the title of subprogramme 7. It was suggested that the title should read "Mitigation of consequences of conflict on development".

6. The view was expressed that the focus of ESCWA was more on activities at the national level, and clarification was sought on the regional aspect of ESCWA activities, especially those related to the management of natural resources.

7. It was stated that none of the ESCWA member countries was a member of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, making adequate participation difficult.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraphs 18.1 and 18.2 should be deleted and replaced with the following:

"18.1 The overall orientation of programme 18 is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development and economic and social cooperation in the region and to maintain and strengthen economic relations between the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and other countries of the world. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

"18.2 Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 and 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, establishing ESCWA and amending the terms of reference to underscore the social functions of the Commission. Further direction is provided in ESCWA resolution 220 (XX) of 27 May 1999, on the adoption, by ESCWA member countries, of the Beirut Declaration, which envisioned an enhanced role for the Commission at the regional level; and, by the recommendation of the Commission at its twenty-first session (May 2001) that activities focus on a limited number of priorities, on Arab regional integration and on the study of mechanisms that would activate such integration. The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, dealing with such matters as trade, sustainable development, social development, finance, and information and communication technologies, provide further policy direction to the programme."

Paragraph 18.3

In the first sentence, after the words "political instability and", add the words "foreign occupation".

The fourth sentence should be deleted.

Paragraph 18.5

The third sentence should read: "Women's equal rights and opportunities to economic and political participation should be further encouraged, although the region achieved general success in making the secondary and tertiary education systems far more accessible to both sexes equally."

Paragraph 18.6

In the last sentence, delete the word "conflict" and replace it with "foreign occupation".

Paragraph 18.7

In the first sentence, after the words "social integration", add "among its member countries".

In the second sentence, after the words "regional integration", add "between member countries".

At the end of the paragraph, add the following sentence:

"Attention should be focused on Arab regional integration and the study of mechanisms that would activate this integration."

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Under accomplishment (c), delete the words "regional and interregional".

Add the following new expected accomplishment of the Secretariat:

"(d) Increased use by member countries of tools and techniques to enhance productivity and competitiveness in the production sectors".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c) (ii), delete the words "regional and interregional".

Add the following new indicator of achievement:

"(d) Number of countries adopting innovative technology and management initiatives to enhance competitiveness and more sustainable and efficient use of such technology".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.13

In the third sentence, delete the word "region" and replace it with the word "Commission".

In the third sentence, delete "regional" and after "cooperation", add "among its member States".

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

Objective of the Organization

Delete "in a globalized environment", and replace it with "that is region-specific and culturally sensitive".

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Under accomplishment (a), after the words "to promote and formulate integrated social development policies", add "that are region-specific and culturally sensitive".

Under accomplishment (b), delete the words "address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, including", and add the words "focus on".

Indicators of achievement

Under indicators of achievement (a) (i), add in the last sentence "that are region-specific and culturally sensitive".

Under indicators of achievement (b), delete "the needs of vulnerable groups", and replace it with "women, youth and persons with disabilities".

Strategy

Paragraph 18.17

In the first sentence, after the words "including appropriate population and migration policies and national urban policies and policies that", delete "target vulnerable groups, particularly the youth", and add "focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities."

Paragraph 18.18

After the words "on intersectoral social development programmes and projects", delete "that address the specific needs of vulnerable groups, such as," and add "with particular regard to poverty and unemployment reduction, with a focus on youth, women and persons with disabilities."

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add two new expected accomplishments as follows:

"(d) Greater participation in the multilateral trading system

"(e) Increased facilitation of transboundary flows of goods, services, persons and capital among member countries".

Indicators of achievement

Add two new indicators of achievement as follows:

"(d) Increased number of rules, regulations and policies adopted by member countries in conformity with World Trade Organization provisions and regional agreements"

"(e) Number of countries accepting and/or adopting harmonization schemes proposed by ESCWA in order to facilitate transboundary flows of goods, persons and capital".

Strategy

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 18.25 to read as follows:

"Despite the various efforts made towards regional integration among member States in the 1950s, the basic requirements for achieving economic integration have not been established. In a world moving increasingly towards the establishment of large economic blocs, regional economic integration becomes a matter of vital importance. Two major impediments to regional and international integration and increased competitiveness are backwardness of the transport sector and obstacles and barriers to participation in the multilateral trading system."

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 18.27 to read as follows:

"Emphasis will also be placed on strengthening the negotiation skills of member States in respect of the World Trade Organization negotiation process, continuing to increase their understanding of the opportunities and challenges presented by the World Trade Organization as well as regional integration agreements, defining obstacles and barriers to participation in the multilateral trading system and organizing awareness drives on the role of the Arab free-trade area and other bilateral agreements. Support will be provided in enhancing regional development by analysing existing credit and investment policies and formulating specific recommendations for the improvement of existing investment laws, regulations and incentives in order to increase significantly the attractiveness of member countries to domestic and foreign investors, with particular emphasis on interregional capital flows and the return of capital invested outside the region."

Subprogramme 4
Information and communication technology for regional integration

Objective of the Organization:

Before the words "build an inclusive," add the words "narrow the digital divide and to".

Strategy

Add a new paragraph before paragraph 18.29 to read as follows:

"Western Asia suffers from a widening digital divide: at the internal level, between Gulf and other member countries, on the one hand, and between cities and rural areas, on the other; and externally, between the

region and other regions of the world. Currently, information and communication technology indicators for the region as a whole are lower than world averages. At the same time, the region has development potential that needs to be harnessed in building the information society, particularly in terms of the common language and cultural heritage. Greater efforts need to be deployed in increasing literacy and education levels and tapping human resources and talents, especially among women and the growing youth population."

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Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Valery **Zhdanovich** (Belarus)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 6
Legal affairs

1. At its 8th meeting, on 21 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 6)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. General appreciation and support were expressed for the work carried out by the Office of Legal Affairs through its various subprogrammes. The important role played by the Office in promoting better understanding and respect for the principles of international law was recognized.

4. Satisfaction was expressed with regard to the improvements in the websites of the Sixth Committee and the International Law Commission. Concern was expressed regarding the timely issuance of documentation in all six official languages, however.

5. Clarification was sought regarding the role of academic institutions in the programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider

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appreciation of international law. It was suggested that training courses on international law be expanded to include lawyers and members of academic institutions from developing countries.

6. Particular appreciation was expressed for the substantive and technical support provided by the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea. The view was expressed that increased participation of non-governmental organizations in the consultative processes on oceans and the law of the sea would decrease the effectiveness of those processes.

7. Clarification was sought on the administration of justice, especially relating to staff grievances, and information was provided on the process regarding staff members' right and access to counsel.

8. The view was expressed that wider access to the United Nations Treaty Collection should be provided, specifically for academics and researchers. Clarification was provided that recent improvements in the website of the Treaty Section included free access and enhanced capability to search text within documents.

9. The view was expressed that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further refinement.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 6, Legal affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 6.1

Revise the paragraph to read "The overall purpose of the programme is to promote a better understanding by Member States of and respect for the principles and norms of international law in order to support the accomplishment of the objectives of the United Nations."

Paragraph 6.4

Replace the first sentence with "The Office will provide services and legal advice, upon request, to the decision-making organs of the United Nations and its Member States." Replace the second sentence with "It will aim to strengthen respect within the United Nations system for the rule of law, in particular observance of the Charter and the resolutions, decisions, regulations, rules and treaties emanating from the Organization."

Subprogramme 1
Overall direction, management and coordination of legal advice and services to the United Nations as a whole

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

At the end of the expected accomplishment, insert the words ", and supporting international justice mechanisms as mandated."

Strategy

Paragraph 6.5

In the second sentence, after the words "legal advice", insert the words "at their request", and at the end of the paragraph insert the words "if requested".

Paragraph 6.7

Revise the paragraph to read: "A further objective of the subprogramme is to support the development of international justice and an end to impunity through help to existing international and internationally assisted tribunals. To that end, the Office will work to ensure that, as subsidiary organs of the Security Council, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda operate, in their administrative activities, in accordance with the Charter, regulations, rules and policies of the United Nations and, as judicial organs, act within their statutes. Within the framework of the subprogramme, the Office will advise the principal and subsidiary organs of the Organization on legal aspects of the activities of the above-mentioned tribunals and on matters arising in their relations with those tribunals. It will also advise the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda regarding their relationships with States and host countries. The Office will advise the principal and subsidiary organs regarding the Negotiated Relationship Agreement between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations. The Office will assist in the establishment of other tribunals, as mandated, and help to develop transitional justice mechanisms if mandated."

Subprogramme 3
Progressive development and codification of international law

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator (a) (iii) reading: "Satisfaction of the International Law Commission with the services provided".

Add a new indicator (a) (iv) reading: "Satisfaction of the Member States with services provided to the Sixth Committee".

Strategy

Paragraph 6.14

In the last sentence, after the words "seminars and", insert the words "enhanced distribution and".

Subprogramme 4
Law of the sea and ocean affairs

Indicators of achievement

In indicator (b) (iii), replace the words "sustainable development of the oceans and seas" with the words "sustainable uses of the oceans and seas, the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the

conservation of their living resources and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment".

In indicator (c) (ii), delete the word "increased".

Strategy

Paragraph 6.19

In the first sentence, replace the words "aspects of marine affairs" with "aspects of ocean affairs".

Subprogramme 5
Progressive harmonization, modernization and unification of the law of international trade

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

Add a new expected accomplishment reading: "(d) Facilitating the work of UNCITRAL".

Indicators of achievement

Add a new indicator reading: "(d) Satisfaction of UNCITRAL with the services provided".